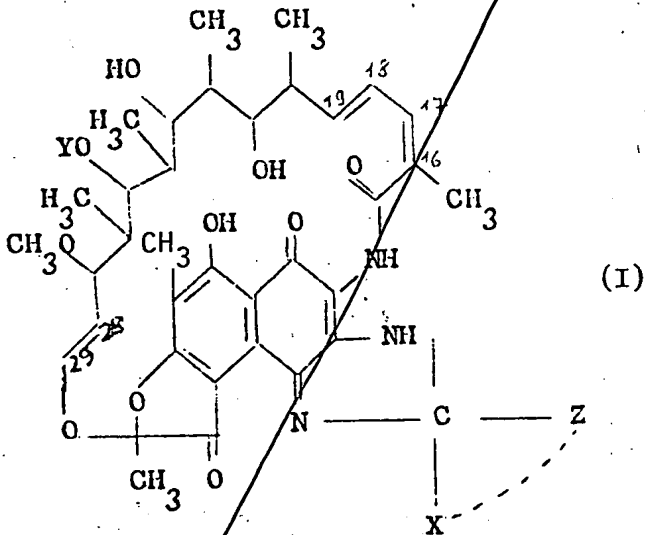


WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

✓ 1. ~~A rifamycin compound having the formula~~



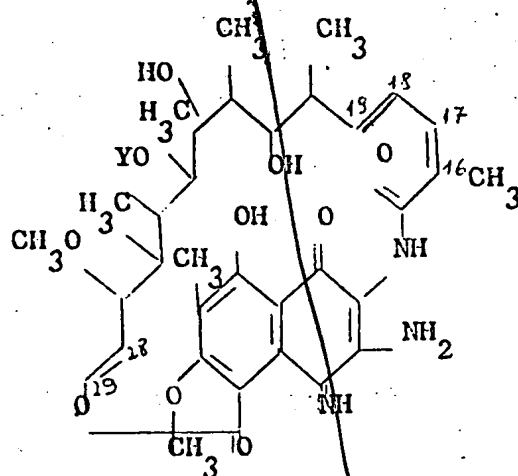
wherein X is alkyl having less than 5 carbon atoms, Y is -H or -COCH₃; Z is selected from the group consisting of alkyl having less than 5 carbon atoms, alkoxy-alkyl having less than 6 carbon atoms, hydroxy-alkyl having less than 4 carbon atoms, carboxy-alkyl having less than 5 carbon atoms, carbalkoxy-alkyl having less than 6 carbon atoms, halogen-alkyl having less than 4 carbon atoms, N,N-dialkylaminoalkyl having less than 6 carbon atoms, aryl hydrocarbon-alkyl having less than 10 carbon atoms and cycloalkyl having less than 7 carbon atoms; or X and Z, along with the C atom to which they are bonded, form a cyclic moiety selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon ring having less than 7 carbon atoms, a hydrocarbon ring having less than 7 carbon atoms which

a is substituted with at least one radical selected from the group consisting of alkyl having less than 4 carbon atoms, halogen and carbalkoxy having less than 4 carbon atoms; the piperidine ring; and the piperidine ring which is substituted with a radical selected from the group consisting of linear alkyl having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, branched alkyl having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms, alkenyl having 3 or 4 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxyalkyl having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms, aryl hydrocarbon-alkyl having less than 9 carbon atoms, alkyl-furyl having 5 or 6 carbon atoms, alkyl tetrahydrofuryl having 5 or 6 carbon atoms, carbalkoxy having less than 4 carbon atoms, and alkanoyl having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms, and haloalkanoyl having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms and one haloatom only.

16, 17, 18, 19-tetrahydroderivatives thereof; and

16, 17, 18, 19, 28, 29-hexahydroderivatives thereof.

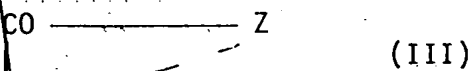
2. A method of preparing a rifamycin compound of Claim 1, which comprises reacting a compound having the formula



(II)

Sub. 134

wherein Y is -H or -COCH₃, its 16, 17, 18, 19-tetrahydroderivatives or its 16, 17, 18, 19, 28, 29-hexahydroderivatives, with a ketone having the formula



wherein X and Z are as defined in Claim 1 or X and Z along with the C atom to which they are bonded are as defined in Claim 1.

*add
§ 5*